5

10

30

VALUE CHAIN MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system (10) for managing a value chain includes a planning application (36) that receives planning data from a number of entities included in a value chain and automatically generates a plan according to the planning data. At least two of the entities do not directly communicate planning data to one another. The system (10) also includes a manager application (44) that receives the plan and automatically identifies one or more exceptions in the plan, communicates planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more of the entities, receives instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to resolved, and automatically modifies the planning data in response to the instructions.